

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Election Requirement

1. The response to Election Requirement filed on 3/3/2008 has been entered.
Invention I (claims 1 and 7) has been elected.

Examiner Amendments

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative H.J. Staas on 5/20/2008.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- Cancel claims 2-6 and 8-14.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1 and 7 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.
 - The prior art fails to teach an apparatus of Claims 1 and 7 that specifically comprises the following:
 - The instant application is deemed to be directed to a non-obvious improvement over the admitted prior art of the instant application and the

invention patented in Pat. No. US 7,054,401, US 5,857,092 and US 5,668,531.

The improvement comprises:

With regard Claims 1 and 7, "a mask step of masking a frame pulse of a corresponding system when an alarm signal of either a working system or a protection system is received; a selection step of selecting the frame pulse after the mask step by a switching signal; " as recited in combination with other limitation in claims 1 and 7, respectively.

This invention is different from the prior art example shown in FIG. 8 and the cited reference in that mask portions of a working system and a protection system are respectively provided in front of a selector, and an alarm-time load enable generator for generating a monitoring window at an optimum time, an ES slip-time load enable generator and a load signal generator for receiving output signals of the generators and for providing a monitoring window generation request signal.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Reference(s) US 7,054,401, US 5,857,092 and US 5,668,531 are cited because they are put pertinent to the timing pulse generation. However, none of references teach detailed connection as recited in claim.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ted M. Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3053. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh Fan can be reached on 571-272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ted M Wang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2611